

Our Medical Work

*A Three-fold Ministry
in Three Fields*



IN PORTO RICO

SO well-known is the Presbyterian Hospital at San Juan that it needs no introduction to the reader of these pages.

Opened on a modest basis in 1901 the overwhelming physical need of the dense population has compelled an increase in equipment which has long been painfully inadequate. The old insect-eaten structures too long have been a danger to staff and patients alike, and wholly unworthy of the cause. On February 19th, banana grove and cocoa-nut trees having fallen to make room for the new building, the superintendent, Miss Ordway, removed the first shovel-ful of earth for the excavation. The work will go forward as fast as the contractor can push it.

Meanwhile the hospital service continues without interruption. The nurses' training class, the children's ward, the other wards and the private patients' rooms are all full. The dispensary continues to be crowded with applicants who often come painfully many miles for treatment available nowhere else in Porto Rico, either for body or for soul.

The practical outreach of the nurses' training class is shown in the employment of several graduates in the various mission stations in Porto Rico; under the Woman's Board one graduate nurse is at work in Aguadilla and another at Mayaguez.

The amount needed from the Board's treasury is lessened by the income from the patients in the private wards; and from the dispensary fees which average about twenty-one cents.

Number of dispensary patients in 1915	21,433
“ “ hospital patients in 1915	733
“ “ beds	40
“ “ out-patients	196
“ “ operations	607
“ “ nurses in training class	14

FOR a generation our teachers here have been doing their best to overtake the ravages of disease and by example, hygiene in the schools, and by teaching the mothers and older sisters as occasion offered, to secure that ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure. Teacher, preacher, nurse, physician, undertaker, friend—all in one—there has been a deal of quiet heroism and a laying of foundations that the world little knows.

The distance between the little plazas and the lack of good roads has made the help of a doctor almost impossible except in critical emergencies, when it is often too late.

But a new era has dawned. The Brooklyn hospital for Embudo, anticipated in the last Summer Offering leaflet, is now finished, and with the care of the missionary nurse is bringing double blessing to those within its reach.

The well from a depth of seventy feet brings an abundant supply of good water, almost as rare as it is necessary.

At Trementina, Miss Blake, with a love for her Mexican neighbors that has grown with each year of her long service, is rejoicing in added building equipment for dispensary use.

The Alice Hyson Mission staff has been increased by a district nurse thus strengthening the work to which Miss Hyson gave her life.

Best of all, a missionary doctor has been sent out! Dr. Horace R. Taylor, formerly in our hospital at San Juan, Porto Rico, last fall went with his bride to help lift the load of suffering in New Mexico. Centering at Peñañeco, long ago occupied by Miss Sue M. Zuever whose abundant and varied service has thrilled many a missionary meeting, Dr. Taylor's field will include a population of two thousand in fourteen plazas. He will be distant fifteen miles from our nearest work—Embudo and Truchas—and twenty-five miles from the nearest doctor—at Taos. The Woman's Board has furnished a Ford automobile that he may effectively reach all parts of this large field. It is called the "Rincones Medical Station."

THE plea for medical work in South-eastern Alaska found first response in the opening of the little hospital in the building formerly used by the Woman's Board School at Haines, in 1907. Under the present physician, who came from serving as interne in San Juan, Porto Rico, the work has developed strongly, some of the patients coming from distant villages. In a radius of three hundred miles only two other centers have physicians—Juneau and Sitka.

Their "giant plague" of tuberculosis, made an addition for tubercular patients imperative. This has now been secured by a personal memorial gift, supplemented by the offerings at the meetings of the Woman's Board in Rochester, in May 1915, where a woman's wedding ring was among the gifts.

The past summer has done much to prove that the land included in the Presbyterian home mission property will become a large factor in the feeding of our hospital family. Fresh eggs and good milk have already been made available, luxuries whose value is known only to those who have lived long beyond their reach.

Hear the testimony of a visiting missionary:

"I found Dr. Craig busy and cheerful as I always find him. He has recently performed several major operations, with entire success, which might well prove serious to any surgeon in any hospital. His helpers are enthusiastic and well disciplined. The whole equipment and working force is a credit to the Woman's Board and our mission cause. The mission workers and the hospital force are in entire accord, working together for the common cause."

Number of dispensary patients in 1915	716
" " hospital patients in 1915	196
" " beds	18
" " out-patients	337
" " operations	55
" " nurses in training class	4

This is Your Work! What is Your Share?

NO budget ever meets all
that this work needs.

Grateful for the comfort
of healthful surroundings and
for beloved physicians at
hand, what extra can you

Send as a Summer
Offering?

Jesus saith unto him, "I will come and heal him."

"I am the Lord that healeth thee."

"As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.